

Through the Year With the Gophers.



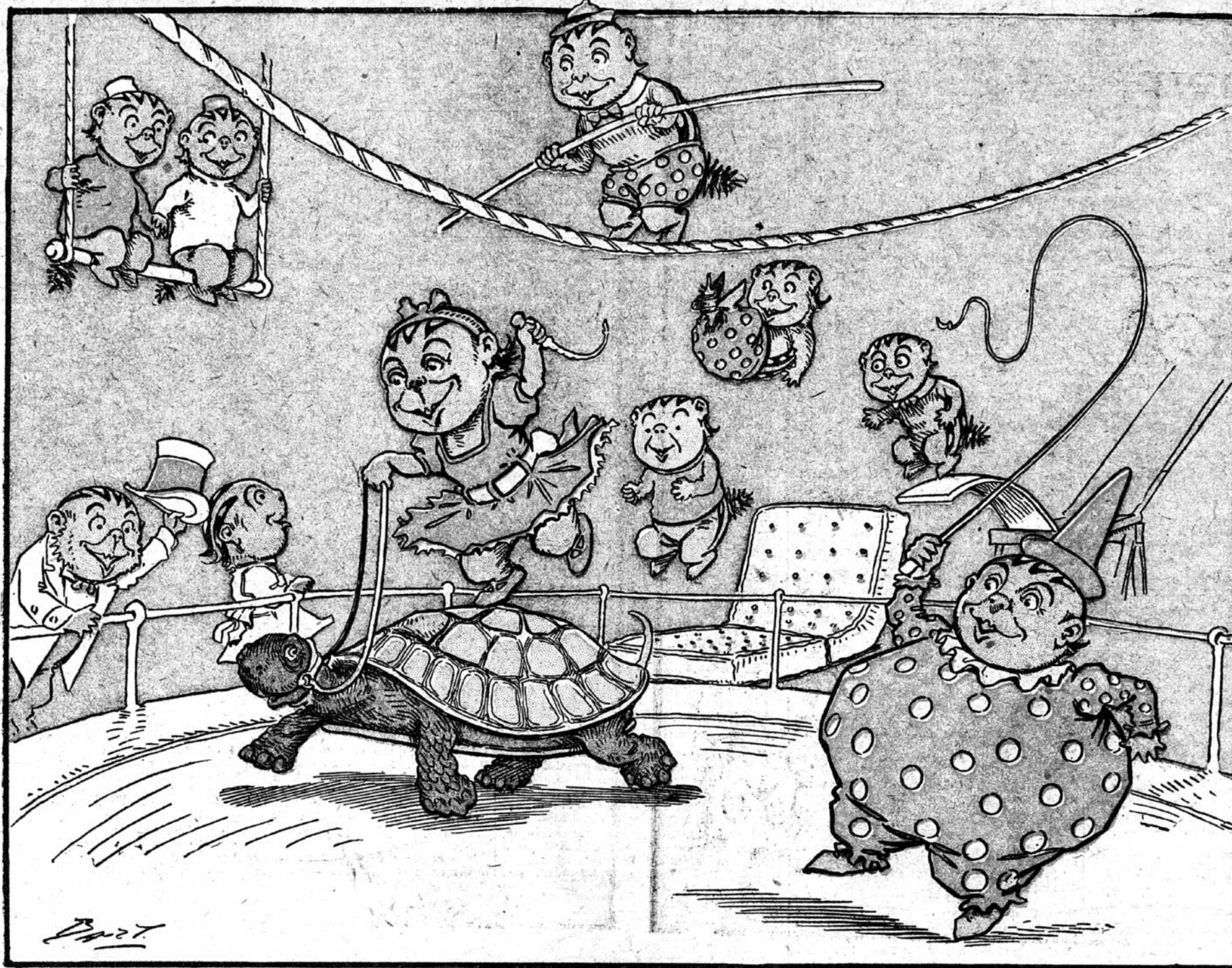
The Gophers' Circus

One day the Gophers woke to find
The billboards, walls and fences lined
With circus posters bright and gay
Which told that on a certain day
The "Biggest Show On Earth" would be
In Gopherville for all to see.
Strange animals the bills portrayed
And feats of daring were displayed—
Performers on the high trapeze,
A man who, standing, rode with ease,
And clowns a score, each mother's son
Just fairly bubbling o'er with fun.
The little Gophers with delight
Gazed at these circus posters bright,
'Till Spotty said: "Why should we wait
Until that far-off circus date?
If we should try I'm sure that we
Could give a show worth while to see."
The idea took, and all agreed

That they would practice to succeed.
Within a week they gave their show.
The older Gophers, glad to go,
Flocked to the tent and hurt their paws
By clapping loudly in applause,
For it was well worth while indeed.
Upon a tortoise for a steed
Miss Lily-paw dashed 'round the track

And danced upon her charger's back.
While Dick and Dan on the trapeze
Performed most startling feats with ease.
Jack walked the rope high in the air,
He picked his way with greatest care,
But missed one step; Jill screamed with fright;
Jack, clinging fast, came out all right.
Now Spot was chosen as the one

To act as clown and make the fun.
A high and pointed hat he wore;
His clothes were filled behind, before
With pillows, so he seemed a ball
As wide and thick as he was tall.
But soon he came to grief; as he
Was turning somersaults in glee,
He landed lying down and found



His feet would not reach to the ground;
So thick and round the pillows were
That he was caught and couldn't stir.
The people laughed to see his plight,
Though Spotty cried at first from fright.
Just like a turtle on its back
He lay there helplessly, till Jack
Came up to where poor Spotty lay
And like a ball rolled him away.
Now when the Gophers' show was done,
The older Gophers said, each one,
It beat the "Biggest Show On Earth."
And they had had their money's worth.

